

RADIO TV REPORTS, INC.

4701 WILLARD AVENUE, CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND 20015 656-4068

FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM The Daily Drum STATION WHUR Radio
DATE September 24, 1981 6:00 PM CITY Washington DC
SUBJECT The Secret Agents Identities Bill

CURTIS CRUTCHFIELD: The Secret Agents Identities Bill passed in the House yesterday is sending shock waves around the nation.

Marge Halpern reports on the implications of the bill.

MARGE HALPERN: The job of naming secret agents usually falls to bulletins like Covert Action Information, a magazine with a circulation of about 5000 that includes a Naming Names column, along with features and political articles. But co-editor William Schaap (?) says the House bill is written to meet the CIA's demand for a news blackout in all media.

WILLIAM SCHAAP: The CIA takes the position that any information being published about them impairs their operations. I mean their ideal is for nobody to say anything about anything. So that any story which is published that relates to the CIA, from their point of view, you could have reason to believe that it would impair their operations.

HALPERN: That means even articles that don't name names could earn publishers fines of up to \$50,000 and jail terms of up to 10 years, under the House bill. Schaap points to a widely printed story from earlier this year about what was thought to be a rebel Iranian radio station.

SCHAAP: It was not a radio station in Iran. It was not Iranian rebels. But in fact, it was the CIA broadcasting out of an old Voice of America studio in Cairo, pretending to be Iranians, pretending to be in Iran. Now, that story didn't name any names. But once it came out, it identified the building, it identified the operation taking place inside the building as being

OFFICES IN: WASHINGTON D.C. • NEW YORK • LOS ANGELES • CHICAGO • DETROIT • AND OTHER PRINCIPAL CITIES